

**March 3, 2010**

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the New Hope Fire Department (Cayuga County) and the City of Oneonta Fire Department (Otsego County) will receive funding under the 2009 federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program.

Today's announcement marks the fifth round of announcements for 2009 AFG funding and includes \$31,350 for Operations and Safety funding for the New Hope Fire Department and \$7,125 for Operations and Safety Improvements for the City of Oneonta Fire Department. To date, a total of 14 fire departments in Arcuri's district have been awarded funding through the 2009 AFG program.

"I am pleased that our local fire departments are getting the resources they need to fight fires and protect the members of their communities," **said Arcuri, who has organized several fire grant writing workshops with the Department of Homeland Security for local fire departments over the last three years.**

"The purchase of additional rescue vehicles and the ability to make improvements to equipment and facilities for our rescue workers is critical. Providing the funding necessary to allow our local fire fighters to be best equipped to do their job makes them safer and contributes greatly to the overall safety of our community."

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) AFG program awards grants in two areas. The first is the Operations and Safety Program Area in which funding is used for training, equipment, wellness and fitness and health and safety modifications to the facilities. The second is the Vehicle Acquisition Program Area would allow departments to purchase various types of rescue vehicles including ambulances, hazardous materials clean up vehicles, tankers and pumper trucks. DHS will continue to make funding announcements in the coming weeks.

Below is a list of other fire departments that have also received AFG funding in 2009:

- Scipio Volunteer Fire      Company - Vehicle Acquisition -- \$190,000
  
- Verona Fire      Department - Operations and Safety -- \$48,521
  
- Candor Fire District      - Operations and Safety - \$45,315
  
- East Maine Fire      Company - Operations and Safety - \$84,788
  
- City of Cortland Fire      Department - Operations and Safety - \$41,716
  
- Morris Fire      Department - Vehicle Acquisition - \$261,250
  
- Harpursville Fire      Department - Operations and Safety - \$42,386
  
- Van Hornesville Fire      Department - Operations and Safety - \$35,663
  
- Borden Hose Company -      Operations and Safety - \$47,975
  
- Whitesboro Fire      Department - Operations and Safety - \$77,520
  
- Bridgewater Fire      Company - Operations and Safety - \$42,047
  
- Ilion Fire Department      - Operations and Safety - \$40,375

###